Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, One of the basic aims of the Veterans of Foreign Wars as set forth in its Congressional Charter is "to foster true patriotism"; and,

Whereas, The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary has proven to be an effective instrument for putting these words into action; and,

Whereas, The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Contest, in this, its 58th year, provides an opportunity for high school students to think, write, and speak up for our country, for freedom, and for democracy; and,

Whereas, This year's theme, "Celebrating Our Veterans' Service" focuses the attention of tomorrow's leaders on democracy as a form of government "above and beyond" any other form of government, and how their guidance will preserve democracy as a way of life for the future of our Republic; and,

Whereas, An active, dedicated, and resourceful population is vital to the preservation of freedom as our nation continues in its third century:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 8, 2005, as

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY DAY

in South Dakota, and I hereby commend the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary for their sponsorship of the 58th annual Voice of Democracy Program, and I call on all ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students to think, write, and speak up for the future of democracy as they address the theme, "Celebrating Our Veterans' Service."

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State